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1 1. A method for brokering upgraded resources for  
2 enabling greater functionality for a product function  
3 comprising the steps of  
4 collecting data describing user interaction with  
5 said product function,  
6 analyzing said data to determine whether at least  
7 one data pattern has been identified, and  
8 communicating to a user of said product function an  
9 availability of said greater functionality when said at  
10 least one data pattern has been identified.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting  
2 step comprises the step of  
3 collecting interval of use data for said product.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting  
2 step comprises the step of  
3 collecting statistical data regarding use of said  
4 product.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting  
2 step comprises the step of  
3 collecting demographic data regarding said user.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting  
2 step comprises the step of  
3 collecting geographic data regarding said user.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of  
2 analyzing comprises the step of  
3 determining whether any threshold has been exceeded  
4 by said collected data.

1           7. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of  
2 analyzing comprises the step of  
3           applying a fuzzy algorithm to said collected data to  
4 determine whether a said data pattern can be identified.

1           8. The method of claim 1 wherein said communicating  
2 step comprises the step of  
3           interactively communicating with said user.

1           9. The method of claim 8, wherein said  
2 communicating step further comprising the step of  
3           interactively communicating by voice with said user.

1           10. The method of claim 8 wherein said  
2 communicating step further comprises the step of  
3           interactively communicating by a visual mechanism  
4 and tactile response mechanism with said user.

1           11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of  
3           collecting data from a plurality of users,  
4           collecting user decisions from a plurality of users,  
5 and  
6           determining when to offer greater functionality to a  
7 user based upon at least group user data and decisions.

1           12. A method for brokering upgraded functionality  
2 in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system  
3 for enabling greater functionality for a product function in  
4 said system comprising the steps of  
5           collecting data describing user interaction with  
6 said product function,

7 analyzing said data to determine whether at least  
8 one data pattern has been identified, and  
9 communicating to a user of said personal assistant  
10 system an availability of said greater functionality when  
11 said at least one data pattern has been identified.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said analyzing  
2 step further comprises the step of  
3 identifying a data pattern when at least one user  
4 threshold has been exceeded.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the  
2 step of  
3 collecting data from a plurality of users,  
4 collecting user upgrade decisions from a plurality  
5 of users, and  
6 determining when to offer said greater functionality  
7 to a user based upon at least group response data and  
8 decisions.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein said  
2 communicating step further comprises the step of  
3 verbally and interactively making an offer to said  
4 user for greater functionality in using said system.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said making step  
2 comprises  
3 interactively presenting said offer for greater  
4 functionality in the context of a new message.

1 17. The method of claim 12 further comprising the  
2 steps of

3 initially starting said user at a low functionality  
4 level, and  
5 offering greater functionality in multiple steps  
6 dependent at least upon said data patterns.

1 18. A method for brokering upgraded resources for  
2 enabling greater functionality for a product function  
3 comprising the steps of  
4 collecting use data describing use of said product  
5 function,  
6 analyzing said data to determine whether at least  
7 one use threshold has been exceeded, and  
8 communicating to a user of said product function an  
9 availability of said greater functionality when said at  
10 least one threshold has been exceeded.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting  
2 step comprises the step of  
3 collecting interval of use data for said product.

1 20. The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting  
2 step comprises the step of  
3 collecting statistical data regarding use of said  
4 product.

1 21. A method for brokering upgraded functionality  
2 in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system  
3 for enabling greater functionality for a product function in  
4 said system comprising the steps of  
5 collecting use data describing use of said product  
6 function,  
7 analyzing said data to determine whether at least  
8 one use threshold has been exceeded, and

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1           22. A computer implemented apparatus for brokering  
2   upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a  
3   product function comprising

4 means for collecting use data describing user  
5 interaction with said product function,

6 means for analyzing said use data for determining  
7 whether at least one data pattern has been identified, and

8 means for communicating to a user of said product  
9 function an availability of said greater functionality when  
10 said at least one data pattern has been identified.

1           23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said  
2   collecting means comprises

3 means for collecting interval of use data for said  
4 product function.

24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said  
2 collecting means comprises

3 means for collecting statistical data regarding use  
4 of said product.

1           25. A computer implemented apparatus for brokering  
2   upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a  
3   product function comprising

4 means for collecting use data describing use of said  
5 product function,

6 means for analyzing said use data for determining  
7 whether at least one use threshold has been exceeded, and

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8 means for communicating to a user of said product  
9 function an availability of said greater functionality when  
10 said at least one threshold has been exceeded.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said  
2 collecting means comprises  
3 means for collecting interval of use data for said  
4 product function.

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1 27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said  
2 collecting means comprises  
3 means for collecting statistical data regarding use  
4 of said product.

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